

Appendix 1 - Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Oregon – Level 1 Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Figure 409E-1: Level 1 Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Instructions for launching courses: Add this program to one of your learning plans. To do that, click on "My IDP - FY20XX" at the top of your AgLearn screen and then click on either "My IDP" or "Assignment Plan" on the left in the Learning Block. Click on the "Programs" tab and then click to "Add Program." Click the "Search" tab. Type in the title of the program and click "Search." Click on the program and click "Save." You will be able to launch content from the Programs tab of your learning plan or from this

page: <https://aglearn.usda.gov/totara/program/view.php?id=198>.

Core Competency	Course Requirements	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Conservation Planning Basics	NRCS-NEDC-000019 Conservation Planning, Part 1	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	3 to 4	N/A
Conservation Planning Basics	NRCS-NEDC-000486 Using Planning Criteria in Conservation Planning	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	3	N/A
Conservation Planning Basics	NRCS-NHQ-LOCAL-000002 Conservation Planning Business Tool Training <i>Employees and partners using business tools (CD, CART, ProTracts, etc.): Required.</i> <i>Partners or TSPs who do not use business tools: Not required. NRCS supervisor who oversees partner's work should communicate this to the AgLearn Coordinator.</i> <i>Email should be uploaded to AgLearn as "Other evidence".</i>	State Hands-on Training Event <i>*Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator</i>	32	N/A

Core Competency	Course Requirements	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Field Office Technical Guide Basics	NRCS-NEDC-000149 Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	4	NRCS-NHQ-000081 Field Office Technical Guide Basics
Conservation Communication Basics	NRCS-NEDC-000501 Conservation Skills for Conservation Professionals: The Art of Helping People Help the Land	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	4	N/A
Cultural Resources Basics	NRCS-NEDC-000141 Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 1	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	4	N/A
Environmental Evaluations Basics	NRCS-NHQ-000011 Environmental Evaluation Webinar Series No 1: Primer on NRCS Environmental Compliance <u>AND</u> NRCS-NHQ-000012 Environmental Evaluation Webinar Series No 2: Documenting the Environmental Evaluation	S&T Training Library for content; <i>*self-certify completion</i>	2	NRCS-NHQ-000075 Level 1 Environmental Evaluation
Soils Basics	NRCS-NEDC-000416 Using Basic Soil Survey Information in Conservation Planning	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	4	NRCS-NHQ-000077 Soils Interpretations

Core Competency	Course Requirements	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Water Quality Basics	NRCS-NHQ-000038 Overview of Water Quality for Conservation Planners - No. 1 AND NRCS-NHQ-000039 Nitrogen Management and Concerns – No. 2 AND NRCS-NHQ-000040 Phosphorous Management and Concerns – No. 3 AND NRCS-NHQ-000041 Sediment Management for Water Quality – No. 4	AgLearn/Web-based *self-certify completion	4	NRCS-NHQ-000078 Level 1 Water Quality Resource Assessment
State Specific Requirements	NRCS-NHQ-000024 State-Specific Training & Required Deliverables-Level 1 Conservation Planner Complete after the planner attends and participates in at least <u>one</u> Inventory and Assessment Training delivered by the SRC or their designee(s).	OJT/State; *Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator		N/A
Verification	NRCS-NHQ-000025 Supervisor Certification for Level 1 Conservation Planner Role	*Completion marked in AgLearn by Supervisor	N/A	N/A

Oregon - Level 2 Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Figure 409E-2: Level 2 Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Instructions for launching courses: Add Level 2 Conservation Planner to one of your learning plans. To do that, click on "My IDP - FY20XX" at the top of your AgLearn screen and then click on either "My IDP" or "Assignment Plan" on the left in the Learning Block. Click on the "Programs" tab and then click to "Add Program." Click the "Search" tab. Type in Level 2 Conservation Planner and click "Search." Click on the program and click "Save." You will be able to launch content from the Programs tab of your learning plan or from this page: [Program: Level 2 Conservation Planner \(usda.gov\)](https://usda.gov).

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Prerequisite	Level 1 Conservation Planner Designation			
Conservation Planning Procedures	NRCS-NHQ-LOCAL-000003 Conservation Planning Course: Part 2 Modules 6 to 8*	Instructor Led by State or National *Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator	32	N/A
Water Quality Fundamentals	NRCS-NHQ-000042 Water Bodies – No. 5 AND NRCS-NHQ-000043 Pest Management and Water Quality Implications – No. 6 AND NRCS-NHQ-000044 Water Management	AgLearn/Web-based *self-certify completion	4	NRCS-NHQ- 000079 Level 2 Water Quality Resource Assessment

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
State-Specific Requirements	NRCS-NHQ-000189 State-Specific Training & Required Deliverables – Level 2 Conservation Planner Complete after the planner attends and participates in at least <u>two</u> Inventory and Assessment Training delivered by the SRC or their designee(s). <i>Inventory and Assessment attended for certification for level 1 counts towards this requirement.</i>	OJT/State; *Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator		N/A
Verification	<u>NRCS-NHQ-0000190</u> Supervisor Certification for Level 2 Conservation Planner Role	*Completion marked in AgLearn by Supervisor	N/A	N/A

Note: State deviation from the nationally approved Conservation Planning, Part 2 curriculum (beyond the state flexibility already built into the national curriculum) requires a course equivalency request for approval and must be included in the state supplement to this policy.

Oregon - Level 3 Certified Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Figure 409E-3: Level 3 Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Instructions for launching courses: Add this program to one of your learning plans. To do that, click on "My IDP - FY20XX" at the top of your AgLearn screen and then click on either "My IDP" or "Assignment Plan" on the left in the Learning Block. Click on the "Programs" tab and then click to "Add Program." Click the "Search" tab. Type in the title of the program and click "Search." Click on the program and click "Save." You will be able to launch content from the Programs tab of your learning plan or from this page: <https://aglearn.usda.gov/totara/program/view.php?id=199>.

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Prerequisite	Level 2 Conservation Planner Designation			
Conservation Planning Procedures	NRCS-NHQ-000015 Conservation Planning course Part 3: Module 9 <i>Note: This course requirement has a prerequisite of completing Conservation Planning Part 2: Modules 6 to 8.</i> <i>In Conservation Planning Part 3: Module 9, planners should document they developed an RMS-alternative and explained that alternative to their client.</i> In Oregon planner shall submit one Resource Management System (RMS) level conservation plan that meets conservation plan criteria in listed in Exhibit 5 and Appendix 3.	OJT; *Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator	varies	N/A
Environmental Evaluation Fundamentals	NRCS-NHQ-000013 Environmental Evaluation Webinar Series No. 3 to 11	S&T Training Library for content; *Completion marked/ self-certified in AgLearn	11	NRCS-NHQ-000080 Level 2 Environmental Evaluation

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Cultural Resources Evaluation Fundamentals	NRCS-NHQ-LOCAL-000001 Cultural Resources Training Series Part 2 Two options: 1. Planner attends in-state course; or 2. Watches CR Part 2 recording AND Planner accompanies and participates in a field survey alongside cultural resource specialist. Planner shall upload concurrence from CRS into AgLearn under "Other Evidence" if Option 2 is used.	Instructor Led by State *Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator	16	N/A
Conservation Compliance Fundamentals	NRCS-NHQ-000010 Fundamentals of Highly Erodible Land & and Wetland Conservation Provisions (State Instructor led) OR NRCS-NEDC-000409 Fundamentals of Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Provisions (Web-based)	AgLearn/Web-based *self-certify completion	3 to 8	NRCS-NHQ-000082 HELC/WC Compliance Provisions

Conservation Communication Fundamentals	State conservationist or designee may require one of the following advanced communications courses depending on the state's anticipated customer base: NRCS-NEDC-000045, NRCS-NEDC-000090, NRCS-NEDC-000147, NRCS-NEDC-000262, NRCS-NEDC-000334, NRCS-NEDC-000378, NRCS-NEDC-000247, NRCS-NHQ-000130, NRCS-NHQ-000137, NRCS-NEDC-000092 <i>Note: Course NRCS-NHQ-Local-000003 (Conservation Planning Part 2) and archived course NRCS-NEDC-000164 (Conservation Planning Boot Camp) both cover Conservation Communication Fundamentals so one of the above courses is not required to be taken for level 3 unless required by the state conservationist or designee.</i> In Oregon this course will not be required to obtain Level 3 Conservation Planner but is highly encouraged.	AgLearn/Instructor Led	varies	NRCS-NHQ-000072 Conservation Communication
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Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Soil Health Fundamentals	NRCS-NEDC-000050 Soil Health and Sustainability for Field Staff (In person) OR NRCS-NHQ-LOCAL-00004 Soil Health and Sustainability Training (State Equivalency)	AgLearn/Instructor Led by State <i>*Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator</i>	24	NRCS-NHQ-000076 Soil Health and Sustainability
Conservation Economics Fundamentals	NRCS-NEDC-000498 Conservation Economics Webinar Series	AgLearn/Web-based <i>*self-certify completion</i>	7	NRCS-NHQ-000074 Conservation Economics

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Air Quality Fundamentals	NRCS-NEDC-000253 Air Quality, Climate Change, and Energy	AgLearn/Web-based	1.5	NRCS-NHQ-000070 Air Quality Conservation Basics
State-Specific Requirements	NRCS-NHQ-000027 State-Specific Training & Required Deliverables-Level 3 Certified Planner <i>Complete after the planner attends and participates in at least <u>three</u> Inventory and Assessment Training delivered by the SRC or their designee(s).</i> <i>Inventory and Assessment Training completed for Level 1 and Level 2 certification may count towards meeting this requirement.</i>	OJT/State; <i>*Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator</i>		N/A
Verification	<u>NRCS-NHQ-000023</u> Supervisor Certification for Level 3 Certified Conservation Planner Role <i>Certification shall be emailed to the SRC or their designee to update planner's designation in the registry or National Conservation Planner Database and is certificate.</i> <i>Certificate expires 3 years from the date it is issued.</i> <i>Copy of the certificate will be emailed to the planner with a cc to the BRC and Supervisor.</i>	<i>*Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator</i>	N/A	N/A

Oregon Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Figure 409E-4: Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Instructions for launching courses: Add Level 4 Conservation Planner to one of your learning plans. To do that, click on "My IDP - FY20XX" at the top of your AgLearn screen and then click on either "My IDP" or "Assignment Plan" on the left in the Learning Block. Click on the "Programs" tab and then click to "Add Program." Click the "Search" tab. Type in Level 4 Conservation Planner and click "Search." Click on the program and click "Save." You will be able to launch content from the Programs tab of your learning plan or from this page:

[Program: Level 4 Conservation Planner \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/landconservation/level4/).

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Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Advanced Conservation Communication	Complete one of the following courses: NRCS-NEDC-000045, NRCS-NEDC-000090, NRCS-NEDC-000147, NRCS-NEDC-000262, NRCS-NEDC-000334, NRCS-NEDC-000378, NRCS-NEDC-000247, NRCS-NHQ-000130, NRCS-NHQ-000137, NRCS-NEDC-000092 <i>Note: If one of these courses was taken in Level 3, that meets this requirement.</i>	AgLearn/Instructor Led	varies	NRCS-NHQ-000072 Conservation Communication
Advanced Conservation Economics	NRCS-NEDC-000505 Advanced Economics for Conservation Planners (ARCHIVED NRCS-NEDC-000017 Economics of Conservation Planning also meets this requirement)	AgLearn/Instructor Led	24	NRCS-NHQ-000074 Conservation Economics

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Advanced Resource Concerns and Discipline Knowledge	NRCS-NHQ-000136 Advanced Resource Concerns and/or Discipline Knowledge Training Tracking – Level 4 Conservation Planner <i>Note: Complete at least 5 advanced natural resources or discipline knowledge courses. Courses meeting this requirement must be from the list of approved sources below and approved by the state conservationist or their designee. See description in AgLearn for more information.</i> Upload course documentation of attendance to AgLearn as "Other Evidence." Include course name, curriculum, source, date taken, and any completion certificates. <i>Approved Sources: AgLearn/Instructor Led/Web-based/State-Led; State Departments of Agriculture; Cooperative Extension Services; State Natural Resource Agencies; Tribal Natural Resource Agencies; Scientific discipline-related professional organizations and societies; Community Colleges, Colleges, and Universities.</i>	*Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator or *Self-certified in AgLearn	varies	N/A

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
State-Specific Requirements	NRCS-NHQ-000029 State-Specific Training & Required Deliverables – Level 4 Certified Planner Assist SRC or designee with successfully reviewing <u>two</u> RMS conservation plans for Conservation Planner Level 3 certification. <u>OR</u> Attend and participate in Area Wide Conservation Planning <u>AND</u> Submit an Areawide Conservation Plan to SRC or designee that meets the requirements of Exhibit 6 <u>OR</u> Other Special Assignments as approved by SRC or designee.	OJT/State; *Completion marked by Oregon AgLearn Coordinator		N/A
Verification	NRCS-NHQ-000026 Supervisor Certification for Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner Role	*Completion marked in AgLearn by Supervisor	N/A	N/A